

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to recognize two great high schools in my congressional district.

The ladies of Mount Notre Dame, once again, with their usual style, grace, and determination won the Ohio Division I basketball championship. This win puts them in the history books, as it makes them the first Ohio team ever to win three consecutive State titles.

With time running out and the game tied, freshman guard Kathryn Reynolds scored at the buzzer, clinching the championship for the Cougars 69-67. Coach Dante Harlan, top scorers Tia McBride, Ashley Fowler and the rest of the team are to be congratulated for their achievement. Well done, Cougars.

I also want to recognize the 32 students in the Winton Woods High School Varsity Ensemble who were selected to participate in the Choral Salute at the 2008 Olympic Games in China. For more than a year, these gifted students have been preparing in rehearsals and planning fund-raisers to pay for the trip to Shanghai and Beijing, China.

They are to be commended for showcasing their talent and also for the time and hard work they have dedicated to this journey. I am proud Winton Woods will be representing Ohio's First District this year in the Olympics.

SEEING IS BELIEVING WITH YOUTUBE.COM

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, YouTube is an amazing thing. As the fifth anniversary of the war in Iraq will be commemorated across the country in recent days, the statistics tell the tale.

Because of the military surge and Sunni cooperation, we are making significant progress towards stability and freedom in Iraq. Violence is down more than 60 percent last year. But as the saying goes, "seeing is believing." And thanks to this miracle that is called youtube.com, Americans can join me for a walk down the streets of al Anbar province in Haditha, Iraq.

On March 2, with a military security detail, our bipartisan delegation walked the streets of this war-torn city and I posted 15 minutes of unedited interviews with local Iraqis on youtube.com.

The fight is far from over, but we are making significant progress in Iraq. I hope many of my colleagues and many Americans will go to youtube.com, type in "Mike Pence," and take a look for themselves at what Sunni cooperation and the American military have wrought in Iraq.

□ 1430

PROTECTING THE SECOND AMENDMENT AND HUNTING RIGHTS ON FEDERAL LANDS ACT

(Mr. BROUN of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Protecting the Second Amendment and Hunting Rights on Federal Lands Act of 2008. This legislation will protect the Second Amendment rights of American citizens and promote hunting activities on Federal lands.

Under current Federal law, land under control of the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been subject to a blanket gun ban, regardless of State law. So I was pleased with the Bush administration's recent announcement that the prohibition of firearms on National Park Service lands, in place since 1983, will soon end.

Currently the laws of 47 States recognize the rights of law-abiding adults to carry firearms for personal protection. The existence of different laws regarding the transportation and possession of firearms has presented a trap for law-abiding gun owners.

It is my hope that these new regulations, when finalized, will provide greater uniformity across our Nation's Federal laws and put an end to the patchwork of regulations that govern the different lands managed by the different Federal agencies. Under this proposal, Federal parks and wildlife refuges will now mirror State firearms laws.

In addition, my legislation would also require that hunting activities be considered as a land use in all management plans for all Federal land to the extent that such use is not clearly incompatible with the purposes for which the Federal land is managed.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the Protecting the Second Amendment and Hunting Rights on Federal Lands Act of 2008.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

DARFUR: RETURNING TO HELL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, 3 months after the United Nations took over peacekeeping and joined forces with African Union peacekeepers, the situation in Darfur has entered a new and deadly phase of conflict. There has been an upsurge of violence in western Darfur, and the Sudanese government launched an offensive at the beginning of February. A number of villages have been bombed by government planes, and there have been ground attacks by the Sudanese army and its allies, the Janjaweed militias. According to the United Nations, more than 100 people have been killed and thousands more left homeless.

A March 12 article in the UK Independent describes recent events in Darfur as "a return to hell," with another "scorched earth policy" being unleashed by the Sudanese government, reminiscent of the worst waves of government-backed violence 5 years ago, actions that led the United States to declare what was happening in Darfur as genocide.

Darfur is home to the world's largest humanitarian operation, but the World Food Program reports that 45 of its trucks have been hijacked already this year. WFP now transports about half as much food into Darfur as it normally would.

Tensions also run high between neighboring Chad and Sudan, and eastern Chad is receiving a new influx of refugees from Darfur at a time when Chad itself is facing instability and displacement.

The new commander of the U.N.-African Union peacekeeping force said it would not be fully deployed until the end of this year, possibly not until the beginning of 2009. The peacekeeping mission, which is supposed to deploy 26,000 peacekeepers, currently has only about 9,000 soldiers on the ground.

The Sudanese government, President Al-Bashir, is defying the world. The government is blocking new deployments of U.N. peacekeepers at every turn, vetoing non-African troops, blocking supplies, and refusing to provide land for bases.

But the international community is also to blame for the obstacles confronting the peacekeeping mission. Nations have failed to make good on their pledges of support, from soldiers to equipment to funds. The mission requires 18 troop-carrying helicopters and six armored attack helicopters. So far, they have none. U.N. officials say they could have responded to last month's attack if they had the right equipment.

Mr. Speaker, why haven't the United States and our Western European allies provided these helicopters to the U.N.-AU peacekeeping mission? Why aren't we working collectively and with Russia and China to make sure this force has the helicopters, equipment, manpower and funding necessary to protect the people in Darfur and the refugees? Why hasn't the U.N. Security Council called an emergency session and targeted new sanctions at Sudan's highest